

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF
SAWBRIDGEWORTH
FOR 1902.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD :
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MDCCCCIII.

THE RED HOUSE,

SAWBRIDGEWORTH,

March 1st, 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my second Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health.

The statistics, by comparison with those of 1901, are highly satisfactory. I have endeavoured to point out some sanitary requirements which should attract the consideration of your Council, and if carried out would greatly improve your District, and be of much benefit to the community. I offer you my thanks for your kind consideration and courtesy, which are always shown me.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Morris, your Clerk, and to Mr. A. T. Watts, your Sanitary Officer, both of whom have rendered me valuable assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ETHELBERT COLLINS.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1902.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the Town.

CHIEF STATISTICS.

	1901.
Population by Census	2085
Acreage (exclusive of water)	2660
Number of Inhabited Houses	461
Average density of population per house..	4.5

	1901.	1902.
Number of Deaths registered	29	22.
Corrections +8	+1.	
Corrected Death Rate	13.9	10.5 per 1000 of the population
Birth Rate 26.8	28.24	,,
Zymotic Death Rate	nil.	nil. „ „
Diarrhoea nil.	nil.	„ „
Phtisis...9	.9	„ „
Cancer9	.4	„ „
Infant mortality ... 142.8	67.7	,, Births.

The total number of deaths over 65 years of age was 11.

The Death Rate in the District for the past year is exceptionally low. This is certainly one of the healthiest communities in England.

The Birth Rate is rather higher than last year's, and is above the average.

It is also gratifying to note the marked decrease in the infant mortality. The Infant Mortality Rate for 1902 is exceedingly low.

Housing of Working Classes.

There is much to be done in the way of improvement in the dwellings of the working classes in your District. Many cottages are unfit for habitation, some are overcrowded. If members of your Council were to

occasionally accompany the Surveyor or myself on our inspections, the desirability for providing more suitable dwellings for the working classes would be realised. This I offer as a suggestion.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The question of providing a new system of Sewers must of necessity remain in abeyance pending the decision of the several Councils which are interested in the proposed combined scheme, of which your Council is one. Nevertheless the urgent necessity of providing a main sewer for seven cottages known as Hand Terrace, on the High Wych Road, also for the Spring Hall Estate—on which there are nineteen cottages, one large house and two villas—demands your Council's immediate attention. It would be possible to drain this area, so that eventually the sewer could be connected with the proposed main sewer of the combined Districts.

Excrement Disposal.

A large proportion is dealt with by means of water carriage to the Sewage Farm.

There are also many cesspools, and privy cesspits, which are emptied by the owners of the property, but the system is most unsatisfactory. Complaints of nuisances caused by emptying these cesspools are constantly being lodged, and cannot be abated until the drainage is more adequate.

House Refuse.

This is removed twice a week by the public scavenger, and the work is carried out satisfactorily.

Water Supply.

The District is mostly supplied by the Herts and Essex Water Company. The supply is intermittent, but, by the use of storage cisterns sufficient.

The water cannot become polluted in the wells, and is of excellent purity and quality.

The supply of water to Clay Lane by the Company's mains is now receiving the attention of your Council, and will be a great boon to the inhabitants of that part of the District.

Nuisances.

Twelve nuisances were detected, and abated. Many still exist, caused principally by the emptying, and overflow of cesspools. These cannot be properly remedied until the District has a complete system of sewers.

Notification of Infectious Disease.

Four cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

Diphtheria, 1.

Enteric Fever, 1,

Scarlet Fever, 2.

The case of Diphtheria was contracted in London—the patient developed the disease two days after he arrived home for a holiday. The case was a severe one, and the patient was too ill to be removed to the Isolation Hospital at once. An “infectious” nurse was supplied by the Hospital authorities, and as soon as it was possible to do so the patient was removed to the hospital. The case of enteric fever could not be traced to any sanitary defects in the house of the patient. This case was treated at home.

The two cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type and were probably contracted at school.

Both were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Bishop’s Stortford.

In each case the house, bedding, &c., were thoroughly disinfected, and the disease did not spread.

Happily no case of Small-pox was notified in your district during the epidemic of 1901 and 1902. Early in the epidemic your Council had combined with several other District Councils, and provided a Small-pox Isolation Hospital, so that had any case occurred it could have immediately been isolated.

Tuberculosis of the lungs, also known by the misnomers Phthisis and Consumption, has been made a notifiable disease by many District Councils throughout England. These Councils have recognised the extreme importance of the notification of an infectious disease, which accounts for one-twelfth of all the deaths in the country, and which can be prevented.

The objects aimed at in making tuberculosis notifiable are :

- 1.—The bacteriological examination of the sputum (for the tubercle bacillus —the active agent in the disease) of the patient notified.
- 2.—Placing the patient under such conditions and treatment that he may be cured.
- 3.—Discouraging expectoration in public streets and vehicles.
- 4.—The disinfection of infected houses.
- 5.—Giving general instruction by means of printed leaflets to those who are suffering from tuberculosis, pointing out how to avoid the spread of the disease through carelessness, or want of knowledge.

The reason for making tuberculosis of the lungs notifiable is to cure the unfortunate sufferer, to arrest the spread of the disease, and ultimately to stamp it out altogether. And these are all possible. Then, surely any argument used against such a motive must be puerile.

I urge your Council to make this disease notifiable in your District.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Slaughterhouses.

These are all regularly inspected and are satisfactory.

Inspection of the Town.

This has been done regularly and systematically, with the assistance of the Sanitary Inspector.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1902.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

YEAR.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			DEATHS OF NON-RESIDENTS REGISTERED IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.			NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Number.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Number.	Rate.
			Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.				
1901	2085	56	26·8	8	142·8	21	10·07		8	13·9
1902	2085	59	28·24	4	67·79	21	10·07		1	10·5

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Bishop's Stortford Union.

Total population at all ages	2085
Number of inhabited houses	461
Average number of persons per house	4·5

{ At Census of 1901.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—2660.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Phthisis	2					2	
Cancer, malignant disease	1						1
Bronchitis	3					1	2
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	1					1	
Premature birth	3	3					
Heart diseases	5					1	4
All other causes	7	1	1			1	4
All causes	22	4	1			6	11

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1902.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 16.	15 to 25.	
Diphtheria					1
Scarlet Fever				2	
Enteric Fever				1	
Totals	4			3	1

Isolation Hospital—Bishop's Stortford.

**Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the
Urban District of Sawbridgeworth during the Year ending
December 31st, 1902.**

	Total Number for Year.	Result of Inspection, &c.
Complaints received	6	
Nuisances detected without complaint	12	
Nuisances abated	12	
Notices served	4	
Cottages inspected...	90	
Slaughter-houses inspected ...	2	
Bakehouses inspected	5	
Cowsheds inspected	2	
Workshops inspected	25	
Houses disinfected...	4	
Overcrowding abated	1	
Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied	2	
"Certificates" granted	2	
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded		Houses supplied by Essex Water Company.
Wells cleansed or repaired ...	1	Town Pump repaired.
Houses connected with sewers ...	4	
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered	8	
Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	4	
Barges inspected	14	

Signed,
A. T. WATTS.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act for 1902.

There are thirty-four workshops in this District which are subject to the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, viz :—

Workshops, 13.

Factories, 0.

Work places, 16.

Bakehouses, 5.

Sanitary Condition.

The sanitary condition of all the workshops is on the whole satisfactory. Cleanliness is observed in most instances ; there is sufficient air space in all the workshops, ventilation is sufficient, and sanitary conveniences are usually provided. No “wet processes” are carried on in any of the workshops.

Special Sanitary Regulations for Bakehouses.

The Bakehouses are clean and in a sanitary condition. The special regulations of the Act are carried out.

Home Work.

The dwellings in which Home work is being carried on are suitable for the purpose. The ventilation and sanitary arrangements are good ; there is no overcrowding.

There are no out-workers in the District.

A Register of Workshops is kept.

ETHELBERT COLLINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

